

Garrett Park Film Society Presents its 2009 Series of Films

January 23 *The Hustler (USA 1961)* - Paul Newman in one of his greatest roles plays small-time pool hustler Fast Eddie Felsen, who challenges Minnesota Fats (Jackie Gleason) to a high stakes match only to lose everything including his confidence. At rock bottom he hooks up with a ruthless manager (George C. Scott) who agrees to teach him the ropes. He soon realizes that making it to the top may cost him his soul.

February 13 *Sweet Land (USA 2005)* - The poignant love story of Inge and Olaf, is also a visually stunning celebration of the immigrant experience. Inge, a mail order bride, arrives in rural Minnesota in 1920 only to find her German heritage raises the suspicions of everyone in the Norwegian community. Neither the Lutheran pastor nor a judge will marry them. How they overcome these obstacles is recalled in flashback at Inge's death.

March 20 *Croupier (British 1998)* - A struggling writer takes a job as a croupier to make ends meet. He soon realizes his experiences would make a good book, especially when a woman to whom he is attracted asks him to be the inside man for a heist. This neo-noir film was Clive Owen's breakthrough role. Suitable for older teens.

April 24 *My Man Godfrey (USA 1936)* - A screwball comedy starring William Powell and Carole Lombard. Two socialite sisters on a scavenger hunt come upon "a forgotten man" in the city dump. After expressing his contempt for the idle rich, one of the sisters asks him to be the family butler. He accepts and of course they fall in love. How much fun is that!

June 19 *Tonari no Totoru (My Neighbor Totoru) (Japan 1988)* - A delightful example of anime suitable for all ages. Two young girls move to the country with their father to be nearer their hospitalized mother. There they meet assorted forest sprites and other friendly creatures.

July 10 *The Band's Visit (Israel 2007)* - An Egyptian ceremonial police band is booked by an Arab cultural center in a large Israeli city, but through miscommunication winds up in a small town in the middle of the Negev. With no transportation out until the next day, and no place to stay, they are taken in by the local Israelis. A warm, gentle and deeply affecting comedy.

September 12 *Never Cry Wolf (USA 1983)* - The true story of Farley Mowat who was sent to the Canadian wilds to collect evidence of the effect of wolves on the decline of the caribou population. Living among the wolves in a harsh environment, Mowat begins to think humans form a greater threat to the natural world than wolves do. A wonderful family movie.

November 6 *Wordplay (USA 2006)* - A documentary about the *New York Times* crossword puzzle; the people who create them and the people obsessed by them. Features interviews with *NIT* puzzle editor Will Shortz and celebrity fans including Bill Clinton and Jon Stewart.